

Top Secret²¹⁹

(Security Classification)

25X1

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NATIONAL INTELLIGENCE DAILY CABLE

Thursday 24 August 1978

CG NIDC 78/198

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NATIONAL SECURITY INFORMATION

Unauthorized Disclosure Subject to Criminal Sanctions

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LATE ITEM

NICARAGUA: Situation Report

25X1 [] *The Nicaraguan Government apparently reached an agreement last night with guerrillas who seized the National Palace and dozens of high-ranking officials on Tuesday.*

25X1 [] President Somoza told the US Ambassador that he had agreed to release 50 political prisoners, pay \$500,000 in ransom, and fly the Sandinista National Liberation Front guerrillas to Panama this morning via Caracas. In the immediate aftermath, Somoza's power base should be little affected.

25X1 [] Because many of the prominent hostages were close associates and relatives of the President, Somoza apparently never seriously considered military alternatives. Nevertheless, the fact that government concessions, particularly the amount of ransom, are less than the guerrillas had originally demanded indicates some hard bargaining by the government.

25X1 [] The affair will encourage the anti-Somoza movement in general, but will not solve the opposition's basic problem of disunity. Instead, Somoza's chief concern will be resisting the temptation to crackdown on his opponents, which would give them a badly needed rallying cause and risk censure by the US.

25X1 []

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[REDACTED]

National Intelligence Daily Cable for Thursday, 24 August 1978.

25X1 [REDACTED] The NID Cable is for the purpose of informing senior US officials.

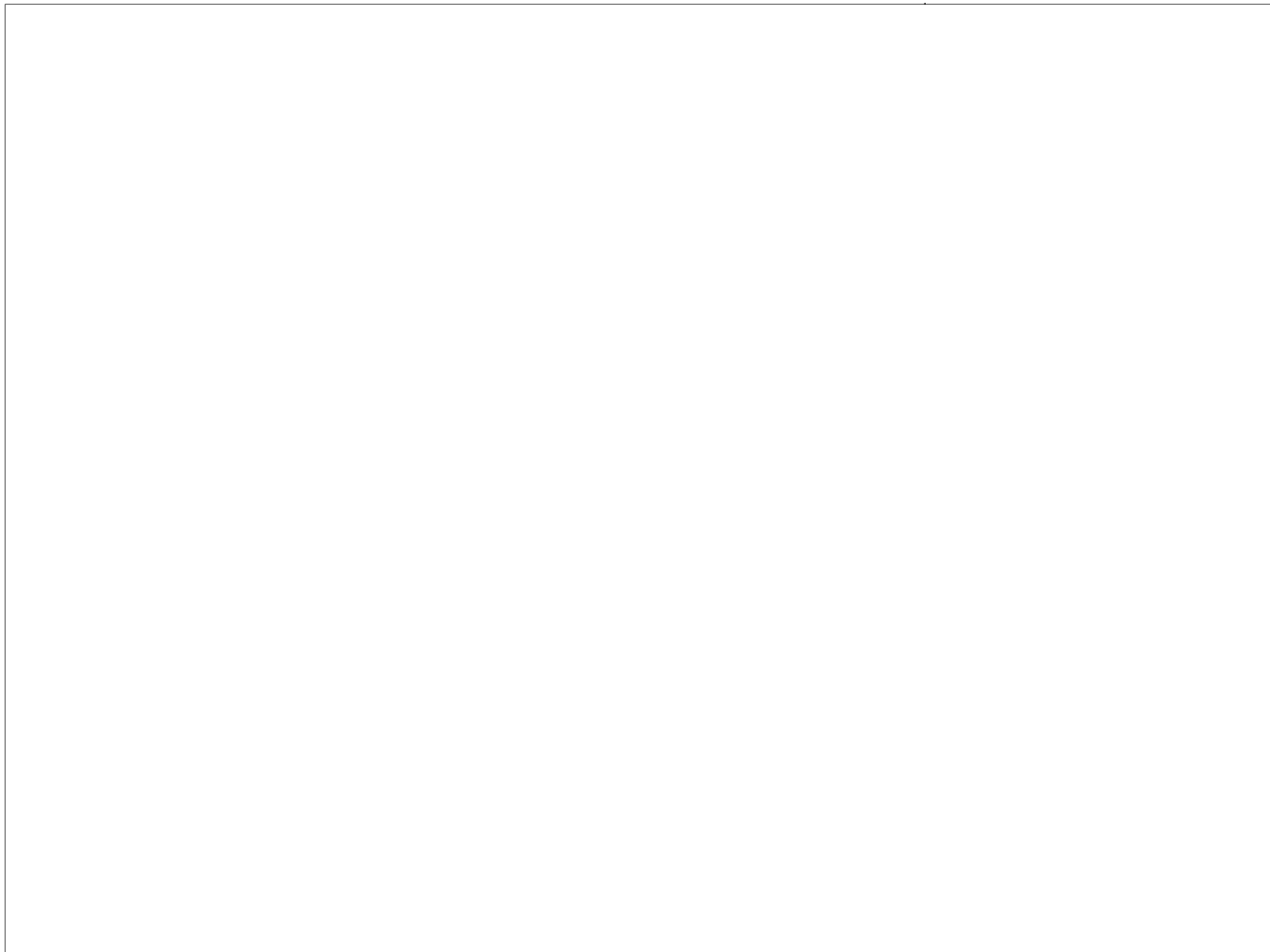
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25X1 [REDACTED]
France-Africa
Afghanistan
Congo
Pakistan




25X1



SOUTH AFRICA: SWAPO Raids

25X1

 //South African military forces may be preparing to retaliate against forces of the South-West Africa People's Organization in Zambia for a SWAPO raid yesterday on a South African base in Namibia. South African Defense Minister Botha announced that South Africa would take "appropriate" steps against SWAPO; some South African combat and transport aircraft have moved from their bases, possibly to participate in a military operation. Zambia has denied any complicity in the SWAPO operation and has told US officials it is making a determined effort to prevent SWAPO from disrupting a peaceful transition of power in Namibia.//

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[REDACTED]

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[REDACTED] press sources say the Zambian-based guerrillas, possibly supported by Zambian forces, fired mortars, rockets, and artillery across the border at the South African base at Katima Mulilo in the Caprivi Strip. The South Africans returned the fire, but there is no firm indication that troops of either side crossed the border.//

25X1

[REDACTED] //Initial reports indicate that about 10 South African soldiers were killed, possibly the largest number killed in a single SWAPO raid. Most SWAPO raids into Namibia in recent months have been against communications and civilian targets or small isolated military patrols.//

25X1

[REDACTED] //Zambia denies that it participated in the attack and says it had no warning of the raid. It has suggested that South Africa initiated the incident and has appealed to third countries to restrain South Africa from attacking Zambia. The Zambian command probably did not order Zambian forces to become involved, but local troops may have defended themselves against South African artillery fire.//

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[REDACTED]

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[REDACTED] South African Foreign Affairs Secretary Fourie has told US officials in Pretoria that the incident was another indication that SWAPO would not permit a peaceful political transition in Namibia. He intimated that South Africa would be forced to take military action this time; a senior South African official has also indicated this.

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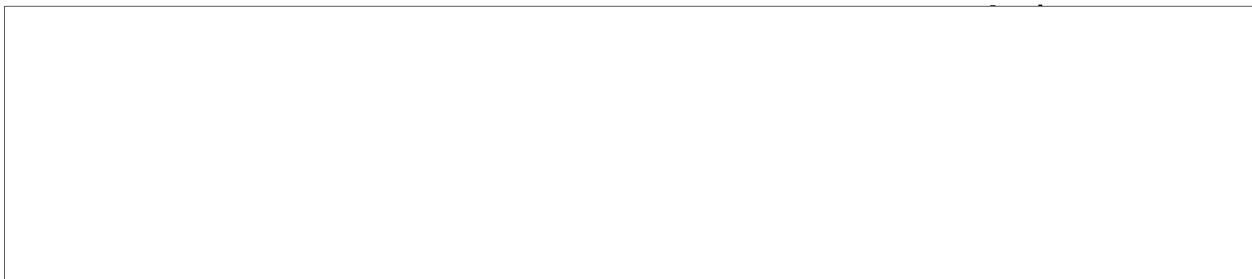
[REDACTED] The US defense attache reports that some fighter aircraft, helicopters, and air transports are not at their normal bases in South Africa. He believes that preparations for a retaliatory raid may already be under way.

[REDACTED]

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[REDACTED]


25X1




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ISRAEL: Party Split in DMC


25X1

 *The Democratic Movement for Change, the largest coalition partner of Prime Minister Begin's dominant Likud, has split. The long-expected defection of doves from the Democratic Movement will reduce Begin's parliamentary strength by several seats, but still leave him with a comfortable margin in the Knesset.*


25X1

 Deputy Prime Minister Yadin, head of the Democratic Movement, Transportation Minister Amit, and Amnon Rubenstein, who leads the Shinui faction, are jockeying to obtain support among the party's Knesset deputies. It is not clear what backing each has secured.


25X1

 Yadin reportedly controls seven or eight of the party's 15 deputies and the Shinui group a few less. Amit, who has not indicated whether he will join either group or establish his own faction, apparently controls two or three seats. Opposition Labor Party figures have been talking with Amit, once a leading member of the Labor Party, and with Shinui leaders in an effort to draw them into Labor's ranks or at least establish close cooperation in parliament.

25X1

 A party split has been brewing ever since the Democratic Movement for Change entered the government last fall. Shinui faction leaders bitterly opposed joining the coalition and during the past year have repeatedly threatened to bolt the party. They are deeply dissatisfied with Yadin's leadership, his inability to moderate Begin's negotiating stance, and the lack of progress on electoral and other domestic reform legislation.

25X1

 Begin probably sees some advantages in the split of the Democratic Movement for Change. If the Yadin group remains in the coalition, as is likely, Yadin's influence will be reduced.



25X1

[REDACTED]

25X1

[REDACTED] In recent weeks, moreover, there have been rumors that some conservatives within the party might defect to Likud, a prospect Begin now may cultivate. Justice Minister Tamir, a major official in the Democratic Movement who broke with Begin in the mid-1960s, reportedly has considered constituting a party of his own or even joining Likud.

25X1

[REDACTED] On the negative side, the splintering of the party could put pressure on Begin from within Likud and from the other coalition members to redistribute some of the Democratic Movement's cabinet portfolios and other coalition posts held by members of the Democratic Movement for Change. Begin should be able to placate those advocating such changes, either by forcing Yadin's group to give up some positions or by creating new ones.

25X1

[REDACTED]

IRAN: Flareup of Dissidence

25X1

[REDACTED] *Iranian security forces are preparing for the possibility of violent protests by Islamic fundamentalists during holy day observances that begin today and end on Saturday. Continuing civil disturbances, firebombings, and other acts of violence have been reported in several cities since 11 August when martial law was imposed in Esfahan. The situation is particularly tense in Abadan where clashes occurred yesterday between police and demonstrators demanding punishment for those responsible for the theater fire last weekend. The police have made 10 arrests but do not claim to have found the arsonists.*

25X1

[REDACTED] //The Shah's threat to crack down on those who, in his view, are exploiting his policy of political liberalization may again be put to the test in the next few days.

[REDACTED]

25X1

25X1

[REDACTED]

25X1

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

25X1

25X1 [REDACTED] The use of terrorist operations to demonstrate sympathy with religious dissidents would complicate the tasks of the security forces already spread thin in handling rioters in the streets of several Iranian cities.//

25X1 [REDACTED] The seizure of the Iranian Embassy in the Hague yesterday was the most serious of the recent incidents staged by dissident Iranian students in western countries to demonstrate their support for antigovernment forces. [REDACTED]

25X1

ANGOLA-ZAIRE: Results of Visit

25X1 [REDACTED] *During Angolan President Neto's visit to Zaire last weekend, he and Zairian President Mobutu agreed to continue efforts to improve relations. Mobutu has agreed to pay a return visit to Luanda "as soon as possible."*

25X1 [REDACTED] //The two leaders focused on areas in which progress could be made easily. They agreed to ask the Organization of African Unity to establish a border security commission as soon as possible. [REDACTED]

25X1

25X1 [REDACTED] The Zairian official said the Angolans tried to obtain a commitment from Mobutu to press Jonas Savimbi's National Union for the Total Independence of Angola to cease its attacks on the Benguela Railroad. The Zairians fended off the request, saying that they did not want to become involved in an internal Angolan matter.

25X1 [REDACTED] //Over 50 Angolan officials accompanied Neto to Kinshasa to exchange views on accords on commerce, aviation, shipping, rail transport, and cultural affairs. The two countries established bilateral working groups to prepare agreements to be signed at subsequent meetings of the two presidents.//

25X1

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

25X1

[REDACTED] Neto and Mobutu reaffirmed their decision to allow the voluntary return of refugees, although they were unable to work out specific arrangements. [REDACTED]

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25X1

[REDACTED]

BRIEFS

25X1

[REDACTED]

France-Africa

25X1

[REDACTED] French President Giscard is meeting with Presidents Mobutu of Zaire and Malloum of Chad and Gabon's Prime Minister Mebiame while on vacation in Africa. Mobutu is almost certainly briefing Giscard on the results of his meeting last weekend with Angolan President Neto.

25X1

[REDACTED] President Malloum is probably seeking to coordinate with the French his recent efforts to reach agreement with one faction of Chad's Muslim rebels to reorganize the government and broaden Muslim political participation. French military and financial support have played a major role in propping up the beleaguered Chadian Government. Gabon, which provides a contingent to the Inter-African force in Zaire, is a leading supporter of France's foreign policy initiatives in Africa. [REDACTED]

25X1

[REDACTED]

25X1

Afghanistan

25X1 [] The Afghan Government's arrest of two more cabinet members--one of them an Army officer--for plotting against the government may indicate that disputes among Afghan leaders are still unresolved. Neither minister, however, appeared important enough on his own to present a serious threat to President Taraki.

25X1 [] There are unconfirmed reports that the government has arrested Interior Minister Watanjar--a far more important military officer who led the armored attack on Kabul during the coup that brought Taraki to power. If so, Taraki has eliminated all three military officers from his cabinet. The most important, Defense Minister Qader, was arrested last week. 25X1 []

Congo

25X1 [] Congolese President Yhomby Opango has used the alleged coup attempt on 15 August to move against a number of southern, conservative opponents of his northern-dominated, leftist regime. The three alleged ringleaders are rumored to have been executed, and a number of other southern politicians have been accused of complicity and are likely to be arrested. Few details on the plot are available.

25X1 [] The government has not followed up on Yhomby's initial charges that some Western governments were involved. The President is anxious to avoid jeopardizing the gradual rapprochement with the West that has developed over the past year. Yhomby, however, has denied the French Ambassador access to a French national accused of complicity in the plot. 25X1 []

Pakistan

25X1 [] The new cabinet sworn in yesterday in Pakistan contains more politicians than its predecessor, but Chief Martial Law Administrator Zia-ul-Haq has retained most of his close advisers in important posts. As a concession to the politicians Zia dropped senior military officers from the cabinet, but their influence on government policy presumably will continue undiminished.

25X1

[redacted] Zia had once hoped to demonstrate wide support for his regime by including representatives of all political parties opposed to former Prime Minister Bhutto. He was able to reach an agreement only with the six-party Pakistan National Alliance; several other important parties refused to participate on Zia's terms. Leaders of the parties in the Alliance--apparently hoping to avoid too close an identification with the military government--did not join the cabinet.

25X1

[redacted] Former Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Agha Shahi was demoted to the post of Zia's foreign affairs adviser, but he will probably continue to perform most of the duties of foreign minister. Several senior officials have criticized his performance. [redacted]

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